

# Westmeston Parish Council

## Minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 6.30 pm at Westmeston Parish Hall

**Present:** Councillors Cathy Mills (Chairman), Joyce Dudeney, Clare Farrands, Tessa Haughton and Rob Mills.

Paul Vidler, Clerk.

8 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Clark.

2. **Declarations of interest:** None.

3. **Public questions:**

The following members of the public spoke about the proposed housing development at Land South of Green Road, Wivelsfield Green.

Councillor Sue Morris (Wivelsfield Parish Council and Lewes District Council) referred to the recent housing developments in Wivelsfield in excess of the number allocated in the development plan. She thanked members for their support and asked for the two parishes to work together to gather evidence against which to assess the planning application when submitted.

Sally Bugden asked if there was a local lawyer who could assist when the planning application is submitted.

Jenny Nightingale referred to poor drainage in the locality of the site and questioned the impact of the proposals on this.

4. **Minutes of the previous meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024:**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the previous meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

5. **Financial matters:**

(a) **RESOLVED:** Payment of the following invoices:

Payee	Reason	Amount
Cathy Mills	Church Corner maintenance September & October 2024	£70.00
Cathy Mills	Church Corner replacement planters	£907.85
Cathy Mills	Compost for Church Corner planters	£13.00
Cathy Mills	Church Corner telephone box refurbishment	£67.97
Westmeston Parish Hall Trust	First aid training	£390.00
Paul Vidler	Clerk's pay October – December 2023	£941.30
HMRC	PAYE	£235.20
Paul Vidler	Clerk's expenses	£15.30

(b) **Overpayment of the Clerk's pay July – September 2024:**

**NOTED:** Members noted the £235.40 overpayment of the Clerk's salary for July – September 2024 and reimbursement of this amount by the Clerk.

**(c) Quarter 2 Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation:**

**NOTED:** Members noted the Quarter 2 Budget Report and Bank Reconciliation.

**(d) 2025/26 budget and precept:**

The draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk explained the variations in the proposed expenditure compared to the current financial year.

Councillor Farrands referred to the work of the Springett & Campion Educational Trust in supporting young people in the parish and proposed the grant to the Trust be increased in 2025/26. Members voted this be increased to £250 in the 2025/26 budget, with four members for. Councillor Haughton declared an interest, as a trustee of the Springett & Campion Educational Trust, and did not participate in the debate or vote on this matter.

**RESOLVED:** To agree an expenditure budget of £13,406 for 2024/25 and set a precept of £13,000.

**6. Planning:**

**(a) Land opposite Westmeston Place, east of Lewes Road and Blackdog Farm east of Lewes Road:**

**NOTED:** The camp site had been in operation during the summer on the land opposite Westmeston Place, east of Lewes Road. An update from Lewes DC Planning Enforcement on the re-established agricultural gate and access from Lewes Road is awaited. There was no further update on Blackdog Farm.

**(b) Inter Parish Working Group on Housing/Eton College Site/Lewes District Local Plan/South Downs Local Plan:**

**NOTED:** Councillor Tickner was absent from the meeting and no updates were available to report to members.

**7. Proposal for 40 mph speed limit on all unclassified roads:**

**NOTED:** Members noted the letter to James MacCleary MP drafted by Councillor Cathy Mills that has been circulated by ESALC to all parish and town councils and parish meetings in Lewes District. To date, 6 positive responses have been received.

**8. Government consultation on introducing remote attendance and proxy voting at meetings:**

**RESOLVED:** Members noted the consultation expiry on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and resolved to send comments to the Clerk, who will collate the response from the parish council.

**9. SALC AGM and conference:**

**NOTED:** Members noted that Councillors Cathy Mills and Tessa Haughton attended the AGM and conference on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Presentations were given by the Sussex Police Chief Constable and on Transport for the South East and planning reforms.

**10. Any other information for noting:**

**(a) Proposed housing development at Land South of Green Road, Wivelsfield Green.**

**NOTED:** Members noted the proposed development, part of which was within the parish, and that the council would consider the planning application, when submitted.

**(b) Highway issues at north end of Spatham Lane.**

**NOTED:** Members noted that ditches had been cleared following the reporting of flooding issues in April. A further report has been made about the condition of the road surface, as resurfacing work programmed for October had not been carried out.

**(c) Lewes District ALC.**

**NOTED:** Members noted that Councillor Cathy Mills had attended the LDALC meeting on 23rd September and will attend future meetings, along with those of ESALC, which provide good opportunities to gain information and liaise with other parishes.

**11. Date of next meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 6.30pm.

Meeting closed at 7.27pm.